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12. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the fiber optic network includes a closed loop optical fiber, one of the first-mentioned nodes and at least one of the second nodes coupled to the closed loop optical fiber.

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13. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the fiber optic network includes two closed loop optical fibers for carrying the first optical signal in opposite directions, each node being coupled to both optical fibers.

14. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the two closed loop optical fibers also carry the third optical signal in the two opposite directions.

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